

you go back to your home districts, and you recognize what is happening to people who are jobless, many of whom are hopeless, many have lost their skills and many who hope soon it will not continue, have lost what it's like to believe that in this great country there is no limit to how far that you could go.

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So maybe next year would be different. Maybe the guys in the street will be following you around, as we find people grabbing Members of the Congress, saying, Hey, my dad needs a job, Congressman, Congresswoman, can you help?

We're trying to help. It was a big crisis and a lot of blame to go around. But collectively someone thought that TARP would work. Well, it had some successes. One thing is certain: We're not going back there. This time it's not the banks. It's not Wall Street in my area. It's now going to be Main Street, so that once again you have an opportunity to explain what are you doing in the Congress.

Well, I know it didn't go over big to say that you were bailing out banks. It certainly didn't go over in my district. How about we're trying to bail out our people. We're trying to restore the hope and confidence they had. We're trying to keep kids in school. We're trying to put food on their table. Sure, we talk about food stamps and food pantry, but we're trying to restore that dignity that make Americans so much different from other people.

In the Ways and Means Committee, where we have jurisdiction over COBRA, this is another step to have dignity. You lose your job, you lose your health care. What a terrible thing to be looking for work and you're sick and you can't even go to the doctor. Worse still, if there are sick people in your family and you don't have the insurance. Well, the Federal Government comes in not with handouts but saying can we give you a hand with your responsibility to provide health care? And that's what we've done on our committee.

We've taken unemployment benefits. You know, you can get enough checks for the length of time—

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. OBEY. I yield the gentleman an additional 1 minute.

Mr. RANGEL. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

In any event, we got aid out there for school construction. It's not just to make certain that we have a place for our kids to learn to become the leaders of tomorrow but also that people can get bricks and mortar and rebuild those schools and renovate those schools, and that's what we're doing.

We've been able to make certain that at least the Ways and Means Committee can join in with the other committees, under the leadership of our great Speaker and DAVE OBEY, to be

able to say this is not all that we want to do; this is all that we can do.

Maybe over the holidays you might be able to get back to your leadership and say, We've been faithful. But we've found out that many in our districts have lost jobs, lost their home, lost their health insurance, and really lost hope. Just saying "no" is not going to work.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CAMP), ranking member of the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. CAMP. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Albert Einstein once said, "The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results."

Yet even though their stimulus bill hasn't created a single job and has resulted in 10 percent unemployment, House Democrats have brought to the floor today a stimulus II bill that explicitly amends, continues, or expands numerous provisions of their failed stimulus I bill.

And here's a graphic depiction of this insanity.

How does spending more on the Bureau of Reclamation create jobs now when it didn't before? How does transit capital assistance create jobs now when it didn't before? And how do more loan guarantees create jobs now when they didn't before?

This is a "son of stimulus" bill. Let's stop the insanity. Vote "no."

Mr. OBEY. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK), the chairman of the banking committee.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, the assertion that the economic recovery bill, the stimulus bill, has created no jobs is, I must say, one of the least intellectually supportable statements I have heard on this House floor, and I've been here a long time. There's an argument about how much and how little, but no competent economist denies that it helped create jobs.

Here's where we are: The fact is that the Obama recovery from the Bush recession has been going more slowly than many of us would like, but it is undeniable by every statistic it is going forward.

Now, if you listen to my Republican colleagues, you learn that the third worst day in American history was January 21, 2009. The worst day, of course, was Pearl Harbor, and then we had the terrible mass murders of 2001. But to pick a day when there were no mass deaths, what was the worst day? January 21, 2009, because according to this debate, guess what happened on January 21, 2009? The Federal budget, which was apparently in surplus, all of a sudden punched into deficit. Unemployment suddenly appeared. The war in Afghanistan, by the way, was going wonderfully until January 21, 2009. There were no bailouts until January

21, 2009. Some of you may have thought they happened in September of last year, but, no, apparently it all started on January 21, 2009.

And not only that—and I have to say I'm quoting my partner, Jim, here—it was one of the worst outbreaks of disease in American history. Mass amnesia seized the Republican Party on January 21, 2009. They forgot that the Bush recession started under President Bush in 2007, after they had controlled both the House and the Senate and the Presidency for the longest time. They forgot that the deficit had mushroomed under them. They forgot that trying to pay for two wars with five tax cuts was kind of a bad idea, and at least you shouldn't be surprised it resulted in a deficit.

So what we are now doing is trying to undo that. And adults understand that you cannot go from a terrible decline to rapid increase without passing through a transitional period. We are passing through it by every economic statistic.

Now, I agree the situation was worse than we thought, and it is getting better more slowly than we had hoped, but it is clearly getting better. And, again, if you listen to my Republican colleagues, the world began on January 21, 2009. I know some of them thought it started 4,000 years ago, and they didn't believe in evolution. I didn't think they thought it all started when Barack Obama became President.

We do try here to help. I was astounded to hear the gentleman from Michigan say it hasn't created one job. Madam Speaker, tell that to the cops and firefighters in my district who were rehired because of this. Tell that to the people now working to clean up a Superfund site in my district which was funded by this bill. This denial of reality to evade responsibility for the dilemma we are in is breathtaking.

So I want to congratulate the gentleman from Wisconsin, who has been the most consistent advocate of social fairness and economic effectiveness that we've had, for a wonderful bill.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Madam Speaker, it's my privilege to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HENSARLING), Chairman FRANK's great friend from the committee.

Mr. HENSARLING. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

You know, repeating failure over and over might be amusing if it wasn't for the fact that so many of our countrymen are suffering.

I heard the distinguished chairman of the Financial Services Committee share with us his history lesson, but also I might add if we look at press reports, clearly Democrats have had trouble counting jobs in America.

What we do know is that the Department of Labor says that we still have double-digit unemployment under this President and this Democratic Congress. What we know is that the Department of Labor says that since the first stimulus bill was passed, to add an